

A Palace Fit for a Loyalist Government House in Nova Scotia

By Stephen Davidson UE

By 1807, Halifax had a population of 8,000, and --thanks to the influx of Loyalists following the American Revolution -- Nova Scotia was home to about 65,000 people. The colony's lieutenant governor at this time was one of those Loyalist refugees: **John Wentworth**, the last royalist governor of New Hampshire.

His official residence in Halifax Wentworth's mansion --known as Government House-- is now Canada's oldest official residence. In addition to its second story private apartments, its first floor features a drawing room for gatherings, a dining room for state banquets, and a ballroom for formal entertaining. In the centuries since it was first built, Nova Scotia's Government House has entertained heads of state, international dignitaries and over a dozen members of the royal family. But initially, it was a miniature palace fit for a Loyalist.

Government House's east doorway and original entry:



The western door and current entry:



Read more in [Loyalist Trails 2021-41](#) published on October 11th, 2021 and the subsequent issue 2021-42